

Country - Rumania

Subject - Istanbul Speculation Concerning Whereabouts of Premier Gheorghiu-Dej

Aug 53

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/ Collector's Note: Translated from French original/

1. "These past few weeks [prior to 6 Aug 53], in various places in Europe, people have claimed that Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, the number one Communist in Bucharest, is 'in Moscow', or 'in disgrace', or 'ill'.
2. "It is definitely surprising that Gheorghiu-Dej has not been present at any of the assemblies, conducted with great publicity, of the Third World Congress of Youth and of the Fourth World Festival of Youth for Peace and Friendship, which have met or are still meeting in Bucharest. Neither at the opening of the Congress or of the Festival was he present in the Salle Floreasca or in the rotunda of the 'Athenee RPR'. It was normal perhaps for Dr. Petru Groza, President of the Praesidium of the GAN of the Rumanian People's Republic, to have given out the decorations and medals awarded in profusion to the workers, engineers, draftsmen and architects who built the various buildings erected in Bucharest for the Festival. And the congratulatory telegrams 'sent' by Gheorghiu-Dej to Malenkov, Mao-Tse-Tung and Kim Il Sung during the past few weeks could have been sent in his name, without need of his presence.
3. "It is completely inconceivable, however, that the number one Rumanian Communist was not present at the arrival of the new Soviet Ambassador to Rumania, Leonid Gheorghevici Melnikov. Radio Bucharest in its broadcast at 05:30 on Sunday 1 August announced that Melnikov was greeted at the airport by 'Iosif Chisinevski, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers; Simion Bughici, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Nicolae Cioroiu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Teodor Rudenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs'; also Gheorge Stoica, representing the Party Committee of Bucharest; a representative of the Armed Forces of the RPR, and still others; also members of the Soviet Legation and 'the chiefs of foreign diplomatic missions to Bucharest'.
4. "For several weeks Gheorghiu-Dej's presence has not been mentioned in any part of Rumania- only his official acts and his name. And his name has disappeared from the Editorials of Scanteia and from the end of the reports of meetings of workers, who always used to send 'enthusiastic telegrams' to their Chief. This could be explained by the new Moscow line 'against personalities'. But his physical absence can be explained only by one of the suppositions in paragraph one."

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